

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 145

By Lundberg

A RESOLUTION to honor and commemorate the ninetieth anniversary of the 1927 Bristol Sessions.

WHEREAS, the 1927 Bristol Sessions, a series of recording sessions that yielded dozens of songs by artists from Tennessee and throughout the American South, brought the mountain music of southern Appalachia to a national audience, revolutionized the music industry, and laid the foundation for modern country music; and

WHEREAS, seeking true profitable Southern music, Ralph Peer, a producer for the Victor Talking Machine Company, toured the American South and held auditions in Bristol in a portable recording studio in the Taylor-Christian Hat Company building in 1927; and

WHEREAS, the 1927 Bristol Sessions yielded seventy-six songs by nineteen different artists, including songs by Ernest V. Stoneman of Galax and the commercial debuts of the Carter Family of Scott County, the “First Family of Country Music,” and Jimmie Rodgers, the “Father of Country Music”; and

WHEREAS, the 1927 Bristol Sessions met with commercial success, and both the artists’ work and Ralph Peer’s innovative recording techniques influenced the music industry for years to come; in 2002, the Library of Congress ranked the 1927 Bristol Sessions as one of the most significant sound recording events of all time; and

WHEREAS, the history and heritage of the 1927 Bristol Sessions are preserved and promoted by the Birthplace of Country Music, a nonprofit organization that organizes the Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion, operates the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, and broadcasts the music of Appalachia on Radio Bristol; and

WHEREAS, the Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion is an annual three-day festival that celebrates Bristol’s significant role in reshaping the American cultural landscape; the event

draws more than 50,000 music enthusiasts and showcases the very best in Americana, folk rock, bluegrass, old-time, and Piedmont blues; and

WHEREAS, the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, opened in 2014, and features multiple interactive exhibits, educational programs, music performances, and community events to explore the legacy of the 1927 Bristol Sessions year-round; Radio Bristol broadcasts on the air and online from inside the museum; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should pause to honor the rich musical heritage of this great State and nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commemorate the ninetieth anniversary of the 1927 Bristol Sessions, as we honor and commend the vital contributions of the Birthplace of Country Music in preserving and promoting these invaluable recordings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.